

Re: Council Agenda - item 1 - Oct 27, 2008  
Revised report and recommendations  
for consideration



**City of Richmond**

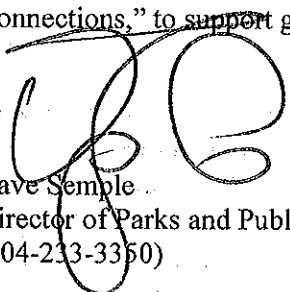
**Report to Council**

**To:** Richmond City Council **Date:** October 27, 2008  
**From:** Dave Semple **File:** 11-7000-00/Vol 01  
 Director of Parks and Public Works  
 Operations  
**Re:** UBCM School Community Connections Funding

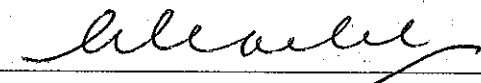


**Staff Recommendation**

That:

1. The joint application by the Richmond School District and the City of Richmond for a grant in the amount of \$8000 from the UBCM's School Community Connections Program "Strengthening the Connections," to undertake a school community garden at Richmond Secondary School, be approved.
2. The joint application by the Richmond School District and the City of Richmond for a grant in the amount of \$8000 from the UBCM's School Community Connections Program "Strengthening the Connections," to undertake the construction of an outdoor classroom at Ferris Elementary School, be approved.
3. The joint application by the Richmond School District and the City of Richmond for a grant in the amount of \$6850 from the UBCM's School Community Connections Program "Strengthening the Connections," to support greening of the school grounds at Dixon Elementary School, be approved.

  
 Dave Semple  
 Director of Parks and Public Works Operations  
 (604-233-3350)

Att. 3

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY</b>		
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>		
		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

The School Community Connections Program was developed in 2005 to encourage partnerships between schools and local governments to greater utilize school facilities for broader community purposes. Richmond was successful in receiving funding in earlier rounds of this program to enhance facilities in the common area shared by Hamilton Elementary School and the Hamilton Community Association and to improve public access and use of this space.

The 2008 "Strengthening the Connection" program has been designed to provide modest grants to address local issues and provide direct benefit to students, their families and the community. Applications for this funding are due no later than October 30 2008. Eligible projects must support the program goals and objectives:

- To encourage and facilitate the co-location of services for students, their families and the larger community within school facilities;
- To make greater utilization of available or new school facilities; and
- To encourage collaborative, long-term facilities planning that takes into account the needs of the community as a whole.

The maximum grant available is \$8,000 for direct costs incurred in the development or implementation of the approved project. Ongoing operational costs are not eligible. A maximum of 3 applications may be made per Board of Education.

### Analysis

Proposals for three projects in Richmond have been developed in conjunction with the School Board. A proposed school community garden at Richmond Secondary School aims to provide small allotment gardens for students to tend during the school year and for community members to use during the summer months. This planned collaboration will help alleviate the 100-plus long waiting list for community gardens while providing students a unique hands-on educational opportunity. \$8000 is being sought to help fund this program. Additional funding will also be required. The national, non-profit organization, Evergreen, is working with the School District and the City to identify potential funding sources.

At Ferris Elementary School, an outdoor classroom consisting of natural seating, a corridor of trees and gardens is planned to help green the School Yard build on the school's commitment to environmental sustainability. This area will provide additional opportunities for the school and community for physical activity, outdoor learning and play. The full grant amount of \$8000 is being sought to bring this plan to life.

\$6850 is being sought to support Phase 2 of a school yard greening project at Dixon Elementary School. Phase 1, the Friendship Garden, demonstrated how staff, parents and the community can work together to create learning opportunities and included Seniors from the Minoru Seniors Centre helping to build planter boxes at the School. Phase 2 will continue this community

connection with the Seniors and will see a rain garden, more planters and additional space for play and reflection built on the school grounds.

**Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact of applying for the School Community Connections Funding.

**Conclusion**

The City of Richmond and the Richmond School Board have a long history of joint use of parks for the benefit of the community as a whole. The School Community Connections "Strengthening the Connections" funding provides an opportunity to extend this relationship in new ways.



Serena Lusk  
Parks Programs Manager  
(604-233-3344)

SL:sl



School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
7811 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC V6Y 3E3

Tel: (604) 668-6000 Fax: (604) 668-6161

Office of the Secretary - Treasurer

October 8, 2008

Ms Serena Lusk,  
Manager, Parks Programs,  
City of Richmond,  
5599 Lynas Lane  
Richmond, B.C., V7C 5B2

Dear Serena:

**SCHOOL-COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOOD GARDEN PILOT PROJECT PROPOSAL**

I write with regard to the Community-School Food Garden pilot proposal recently received from Evergreen. The proposal is for a community food garden to be based on district owned land at Richmond Secondary School, near the site of the school's existing food garden. The project will be managed by Evergreen, with funding contributions proposed from a number of sources, including the School-Community Connections Program.

Please accept this letter as confirmation of the School District's support for this proposal. The concept of expanding our practice of sharing resources and facilities to include food gardens is a potentially excellent one that could bring many benefits to both the community and the school. This pilot project will bring real new resources to the District's food garden programs, including the services of chef Ian Lai, and expanded services from Evergreen. The district has completed many successful projects with Evergreen, and can vouch for their dedication, enthusiasm, professionalism and knowledge.

Please do not hesitate to call if anything further is required from us.

Sincerely,

Ken Morris,  
Secretary-Treasurer

CC Bruce Beairsto, Superintendent  
Dave Semple, Director of Parks and Public Works Operations  
Eric Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities



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Office of the Secretary - Treasurer

October 23, 2008

To Members of the 2008 School Community Connections (SCC) Funding Program Selection Committee,

2008 School Community Connections Funding Program  
BC School Trustees Association and Union of BC Municipalities

On behalf of the Richmond School District, I am pleased to write this letter to support Ferris Elementary School's application for a 2008 SCC Grant to plan and build an outdoor classroom/performance area which includes natural seating, a corridor of trees, and gardens.

This project meets the School Community Connections goals of Early Learning, Safer and Greener Communities, Healthy Kids and Families, and Food Security and Nutrition, as well as the Richmond School District's educational goals and environmental stewardship objectives of behaving responsibly towards the natural world.

It is evident at Ferris Elementary School that the community of students, staff, parents and community organizations are active participants in their environmental sustainability initiatives. Over the past five years, Ferris Elementary and its community, have successfully implemented a variety of classroom-based and school-wide initiatives that have promoted naturalistic intelligence and behavioural changes associated with environmental sustainability. Such initiatives include: energy reduction, recycling, courtyard gardens and composting. This new initiative, an outdoor classroom/ performance area, corridor of trees, and gardens, builds on the school-community's commitment to environmental sustainability. As a result, the school and the community will benefit from the new green space that will make outdoor physical activities, learning and playing a reality for students, families and community members.

Ferris Elementary School has demonstrated a strong history of successful collaborations with PAC and community groups in planning and implementing sustainability projects and I am confident that this new grass root initiative of an outdoor classroom/ performance area, driven by students, parents, and staff, will provide the opportunity to further strengthen this school community connection.

Thank you for giving serious consideration to this grant application. If you would like more information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ken Morris  
Secretary-Treasurer

Director  
Information and Privacy

Cc Linda McPhail, Chairperson, Board of Education  
Bruce Beirsto, Superintendent of Schools  
Wendy Durnin, Principal, Ferris Elementary School  
Eric Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities  
Wendy Lim, District Administrator  
Mayor M. Brodie and City Councilors



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October 23, 2008

Office of the Secretary - Treasurer

To Members of the 2008 School Community Connections (SCC) Funding Program Selection Committee,

2008 School Community Connections Funding Program  
BC School Trustees Association and Union of BC Municipalities

On behalf of the Richmond School District, I am pleased to write this letter to support the application of Dixon Elementary School's Dragonfly Committee for a 2008 SCC Grant to build Phase 2 of their plan to green their school grounds and teach children how to grow and use healthy food in a sustainable way.


This project meets the School Community Connections goals of Early Learning, Safer and Greener Communities, Healthy Kids and Families, and Food Security and Nutrition, as well as the Richmond School District's educational goals and environmental stewardship objectives of behaving responsibly towards the natural world.

Phase 1 of the Plan involved seniors from a local seniors center in building planters, while preschoolers and community members assisted school children in weeding and maintaining the gardens and worm composters over the summer. Phase 2 will continue this community connection in creating more planters for food crops, native plants and shade trees, as well as a rain garden, log seating, and window boxes. The Dragonflies also intend to engage a local chef to show children how to convert their crops into delicious healthy meals.

The Friendship Garden created in Phase 1 demonstrated how staff, parents and community members can work together to create learning opportunities using nature and the life cycle of plants, and inspired the Dixon community to create sustainable practices in both the school and in their own life. With your generosity, Phase 2 will build on that enthusiasm and success.

Thank you for giving serious consideration to this grant application. If you would like more information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Ken Morris,  
Secretary-Treasurer

Director  
Information and Privacy

CC Linda McPhail, Chairperson, Board of Education  
Bruce Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools  
Deirdre Lintott, Principal, Dixon Elementary School  
Eric Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities  
Mayor M. Brodie and City Councilors